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Letter dated 21 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I attach my assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of Ireland in October 2001 (see annex). The present assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with members of the Council, pursuant to the note of the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451) and should not be considered as representing the views of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and the attached assessment could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council

Ireland (October 2001)

Introduction

1. During the Presidency of Ireland in October, the Security Council held a total of 22 meetings, of which all but six were public, while Council members met on 19 occasions for informal consultations and twice under the Arria formula. The Security Council adopted two resolutions and six Presidential statements. The President was authorized on 15 occasions to make statements to the press on behalf of Council members.

2. The work of the Security Council, during Ireland's Presidency, was directed in particular towards a range of African issues, including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

3. Developments arising from the events of 11 September in the United States of America had a major impact on the Council's work during October. Steps were taken expeditiously in follow-up to resolution 1373 (2001), which had been adopted on 28 September. Specifically: Council members, on 4 October, elected the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, enabling that Committee to begin work very shortly after its establishment; a large number of meetings of the Committee were integrated into the Council's programme of work; and, on 23 October, Council members approved the Committee's programme of work for the period ahead. Meanwhile, on 8 October, Council members received a first briefing from the representatives of States whose forces had initiated military operations in Afghanistan on the preceding day. Arrangements were made for Council members subsequently to receive, from the Secretary-General and senior Secretariat officials, regular and detailed briefings concerning the situation in Afghanistan, with particular emphasis on the humanitarian aspect. The Council members , through their President, made press statements concerning Afghanistan on 4, 9, 16 and 23 October.

4. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Mr. Brian Cowen, presided over a series of meetings of the Security Council on 31 October and the adoption of Presidential statements concerning East Timor, Somalia and the cross-cutting issue of women and peace and security.

5. On several occasions members of the Council discussed in informal consultations the situation in the Middle East and, in this connection, the Council President was authorized by members to make a statement to the press on 25 October. The Council also: agreed to the continuation of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM); conducted a review of the Iraq oil-for-food programme; issued a Presidential statement on Kosovo, in advance of the 17 November elections there; followed closely the situation in Georgia, in the light of violent incidents there; agreed upon an expansion in the functions of the United Nations political office in Bougainville; filled, together with the General Assembly, by election, a vacancy on the International Court of Justice; received a briefing from the President of the Court; and welcomed the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations and the Secretary-General. The President undertook, on behalf of Council members, a wide range of bilateral contacts, including with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, following which he reported to members in informal consultations.

6. With a view to further advancing transparency in the work of the Council, the President scheduled as many public meetings as feasible. In addition, the Presidency briefed non-members of the Council immediately after each session of informal consultations, while the delegation of Ireland maintained a web site (www.un.int/ireland), which featured the Council's continuously-updated programme of work as well as all texts emanating from the Council. Members had an opportunity in a public meeting of the Council to discuss the matter of general issues relating to sanctions. A start was made to

deliberations within the Council to modernize the format and content of the Council's annual report to the General Assembly, taking into account views expressed on this matter during the related debate at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

7. Statements to the press which the President of the Council was authorized to make by Council members on their behalf during October are reproduced below.

Africa

Burundi

8. In view of the installation of the transitional government in Bujumbura on 1 November, it had been planned that the Security Council should meet with members of the Implementation Monitoring Committee of the Arusha Agreement on 2 October, thereby taking advantage of the intended presence in New York of Ministers from the region in connection with the general debate of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Regrettably, the deferral of the general debate in the General Assembly (due to the events of 11 September) meant that the Security Council meeting that had been planned for 2 October could not proceed as scheduled. Nonetheless, it was important that the Council maintain a close watch on the situation in Burundi during the weeks preceding the installation of the transitional government. This was done.

9. On 10 October, Council members heard a briefing from the Department of Political Affairs in informal consultations concerning the outcome of the Sixteenth Summit Meeting of the Regional Peace Initiative in Burundi and the fifth session of the Implementation Monitoring Committee. The Regional Summit had ended inconclusively and participants had agreed to hold a further summit on 11 October, which the armed groups — namely the Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD) and Forces nationales de libération (FNL) — had indicated they would be prepared to attend. Representatives of the Facilitator, Nelson Mandela, and of the United Nations were working with the Government of Burundi and the G7 (Hutu) parties in an effort to resolve outstanding issues in advance of the summit, in particular the modalities for the establishment of a protection unit which would protect returning political leaders and legislative arrangements for the transition period. Following these informal consultations, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of Council members.

10. On 16 October, Council members heard in informal consultations a further briefing from the Department of Political Affairs concerning the outcome of the Seventeenth Summit Meeting of the Regional Peace Initiative in Burundi, which had taken place in South Africa on 11 October. The Government of Burundi and the G7 parties had reached agreement on the establishment of an all-Burundi protection unit as well as interim steps providing for the deployment of forces from four African countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, beginning with those from South Africa). They had also agreed on the legal framework and structure of the transitional government, the composition of the cabinet and senate and the transitional national assembly. The President made a statement to the press upon the conclusion of these consultations.

11. On 29 October, following further informal consultations, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1375 (2001). On 1 November, the transitional government of Burundi was installed in Bujumbura.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

12. A planned meeting of the Security Council with members of the Political Committee of the Lusaka Agreement that the President had scheduled for 1 October did not take place for the same reasons referred to in paragraph 8 above. The Council was nonetheless called upon during October to sustain its active engagement in the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and this was done. Two major developments that informed the Council's deliberations were: the holding at Addis Ababa, on 15 October, of the opening, substantive meeting of the inter-Congolese dialogue under the facilitation of Sir Ketumile Masire; and the publication of the Secretary-General's recommendations for the next phase in the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). The Security Council welcomed both of these developments.

13. On 11 October, Council members heard a briefing in informal consultations from the Department of Political Affairs regarding preparations for the substantive session of the inter-Congolese dialogue, which was scheduled to begin in Addis Ababa on 15 October. Owing to funding difficulties, it was not clear at the time whether the full, substantive dialogue

would proceed on schedule. However, a meeting did take place on 15 October with approximately 80 participants (including the Facilitator) — mainly those who had participated in the productive, preparatory meeting in Gaborone in August. Council members authorized the President to make a statement to the press concerning both the inter-Congolese dialogue and the situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

14. Following the publication of the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2001/970), the Security Council, on 18 October, held a private meeting with MONUC troop-contributing countries, which resumed on 22 October. Participants included Amos Namanga Ngongi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Major General Mountaga Diallo, Force Commander of MONUC. They briefed on the political and military aspects of the Secretary-General's report. An active and far-reaching discussion focused on the challenges that would face MONUC in phase III of its deployment in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following the Council meeting with troop-contributing countries, the Presidency circulated informally among Council members a written, summary report that highlighted the main points raised during the meeting (see para. 75 below.)

15. On 23 October, Council members took up discussion of the Secretary-General's report in informal consultations which were attended by Special Representative Amos Namanga Ngongi. On the following day, 24 October, a public meeting of the Council (S/PV.4395) drew participation from representatives of five non-members of the Council, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Léonard She Okitundu. Immediately afterwards, the Security Council adopted a Presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/29).

16. In a letter which he addressed to the President of the Security Council on 3 October (S/2001/950), the Secretary-General recommended an extension, until 30 November 2001, of the mandate of the Expert Panel on Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 8 October, the President informed the Secretary-General (S/2001/951) that the matter had been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and that they took note of the recommendation that the Panel's mandate be so extended to enable the Panel to submit its report to the Council by mid-November.

17. In summary, in October, the Security Council maintained its close and active interest in the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Even as the situation in the eastern part of the country continued to give cause for concern, the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendations for the next phase of MONUC and, accordingly, confirmed the overall direction of the United Nations effort in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period ahead.

Somalia

18. The Security Council had last discussed Somalia in a public meeting in June 2000. Ireland's Presidency gave priority to the Council's focusing on Somalia during October 2001.

19. On 17 October, members of the Council heard a briefing in informal consultations from the Representative of the Secretary-General on Somalia, David Stephen, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General of 11 October 2001 (S/2001/963). He characterized the population as war-weary. Warlords no longer commanded the public support they once enjoyed and the vision of a national, non-warlord-based solution was gaining ground. At the same time, the regional and international contexts were not especially propitious. The Secretary-General was proposing the establishment of a Committee of Friends of Somalia, with a view to ensuring greater uniformity of approach and to facilitating the exchange of information concerning Somalia. There ensued a frank exchange of views among Council members, with particular focus on the extent to which and in what manner the United Nations could re-engage in Somalia. A number of delegations suggested that a new United Nations security assessment be conducted from Headquarters in New York. The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Somalia, Randolph Kent, who also participated in the consultations, supported the immediate mounting of a Headquarters inter-agency assessment. In this context, the ramifications of the events of 11 September in the United States were also alluded to.

20. On 19 October, the Security Council held public meetings to consider the situation in Somalia (S/PV.4392 and S/PV.4392 (Resumption 1)). The representatives of 11 non-members of the Council, including the then Prime Minister of the Transitional National Government of Somalia, participated in the meeting. The depth of speakers' concerns and the range of views expressed — from both within and outside the Council — confirmed the timeliness of the debate.

21. Following further informal consultations of members on 30 October, the Security Council met again on 31 October (S/PV.4401) and adopted a wide-ranging and action-oriented Presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/30). The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Brian Cowen, presided.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

22. On 3 October, Council members heard a briefing in informal consultations from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations regarding the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). While the ceasefire was holding and neither side was preparing to resume hostilities, a number of concerns remained regarding the level of cooperation being extended to UNMEE on the ground. Despite repeated calls to both the Eritrean and Ethiopian authorities for greater cooperation with UNMEE, no significant progress had been registered and in some instances cooperation had deteriorated. The situation was a cause for concern. Were the pattern of non-cooperation not to be reversed, it had the potential to undermine the peace process. Concern at this situation was shared among Council members and the President of the Council was authorized to make a statement to the press which, inter alia, called on the parties to further their engagement in constructive dialogue within the framework of the Military Coordination Commission (MCC) and to facilitate UNMEE's work. It was also agreed by Council members that the President should speak with the Chargé d'affaires of Eritrea to convey the concern and dissatisfaction of Council members. This was done.

23. On 22 October, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations again briefed the Council on developments, stressing that there remained some causes for concern. Subsequently, the President of the Council resumed contacts with the Chargé d'affaires of Eritrea, which proved inconclusive, in that no response was received to the concerns expressed by Council members through the Presidency.

Angola

24. The Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Office in Angola was issued on 10 October (S/2001/956). It was introduced to Council members in informal consultations by the Secretary-General's Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa, Ibrahim Gambari, on 17 October. The Adviser reported that, at the request of the Government of Angola, he would visit Angola later in the year for consultations with the Government, political parties and civil society representatives on how best the United Nations could help in the search for a negotiated peace in the country. He would also consult on the Government's request for assistance from the United Nations, which had been examined by a multidisciplinary team that visited Angola in September. Council members afterwards authorized the President to make a statement to the press on their behalf.

25. On 19 October, Council members agreed in informal consultations that the mandate of the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA should be extended for a further six months. Immediately afterwards (S/PV.4393), the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1374 (2001) extending the sanctions until 19 April 2002. The Council, inter alia, also called on the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) to undertake a review of the three reports of the Monitoring Mechanism with a view to examining the recommendations contained in these reports. It also requested the Monitoring Mechanism to provide the Sanctions Committee with a detailed action plan for its future work. The Mechanism's supplementary report of 12 October (S/2001/966) was circulated for the information of the members of the United Nations.

Guinea-Bissau

26. In a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council on 5 October (S/2001/960), the Secretary-General stated that the authorities of Guinea-Bissau had requested the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) until the next legislative and presidential elections. The Secretary-General proposed that the mandate be extended for calendar 2002. He also noted that, despite some positive

developments, the overall situation in Guinea-Bissau remained dangerously unstable, and he called for the critical support of the international community. On 10 October, the President replied to the Secretary-General (S/2001/961), informing him that his letter of 5 October had been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council who had taken note of the proposal contained therein.

27. In informal consultations on 22 October, Council members heard a briefing from the Department of Political Affairs. The briefing was based on the Secretary-General's report of 27 September (S/2001/915) and took into account developments since its publication. Council members were concerned by the political situation in the country and its destabilizing potential, and recognized the need for continued international engagement with, and donor support of, Guinea-Bissau. Afterwards, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of Council members.

Sierra Leone

28. On 3 October, in informal consultations, Council members heard a briefing from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations concerning recent developments in Sierra Leone. While the overall security situation was reported to be stable, there was concern about the failure of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to carry through with the latest stage of disarmament in the sensitive district of Bombali. Steps were being taken by the Government of Sierra Leone to meet concerns which had been voiced by RUF. As at 2 October, following the resumption of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme on 18 May, a total of 19,183 combatants had disarmed, in roughly the following proportion: RUF 1: Civil Defence Force (CDF) 2. Members were also reminded of the shortfall in the funding of the Multi-donor Trust Fund for the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme, a number of recently announced contributions notwithstanding. It was pointed out that the Secretariat was preparing detailed recommendations on how the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) could assist the process leading to the elections scheduled for May 2002 and on how the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women concerning her visit to Sierra Leone in August 2001 would be shared with Council members when finalized. Following informal consultations, the Council President made a statement to the press on behalf of Council members.

Liberia

29. In a letter which he addressed to the President of the Security Council on 12 October (S/2001/981), the Secretary-General indicated that, in spite of the difficult political and security circumstances in the country and the subregion, the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia (UNOL) continued to make worthwhile contributions in a number of areas. The Secretary-General, following consultations with the Government of Liberia, recommended that the mandate of the Office be extended for one additional year, to 31 December 2002. On 18 October, the President replied to the Secretary-General (S/2001/982), informing him that his letter of 12 October had been brought to the attention of the members of the Council who had taken note of the recommendation contained therein.

30. An "Arria formula" meeting of Council members was convened by the Permanent Mission of Jamaica on 17 October to address the humanitarian situation in Liberia. Apart from Council members, participants included Yvonne Terlingen of Amnesty International, Peter Alley of Global Witness, Muthoni Muriu of Oxfam International, and Catherine Dumait-Harper of Médecins Sans Frontières.

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General

31. In a letter dated 29 October (S/2001/1031), the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council that he had decided to extend the appointment of Mohamed Sahnoun as his Special Adviser until 31 December 2002. On 31 October, the President informed the Secretary-General (S/2001/1032) that the latter's decision had been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and that the members had taken note thereof.

Asia

Afghanistan

32. Afghanistan was a leading concern of the Security Council during October.

33. In identical letters dated 3 October (A/56/432-S/2001/934), the Secretary-General informed the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Council that, in view of the grave humanitarian and political situation affecting the country, it was his intention to reappoint Lakhdar Brahimi as his Special Representative for Afghanistan. The Secretary-General appended Mr. Brahimi's terms of reference. In a reply dated 4 October (S/2001/937), the President of the Council informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Council had taken note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's intention and the terms of reference. A statement to the press in the same vein was issued on behalf of Council members.

34. On 7 October, two members of the Security Council informed the President, by separate letters, that their forces had that day initiated military actions in Afghanistan in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter. Informal consultations of the whole were convened on 8 October. Following a briefing by the two States concerned and an exchange of views among members, the President was authorized to make a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Council.

35. At that time, the President of the Council arranged with the Secretary-General and Mr. Brahimi that the latter would meet Council members at the earliest opportunity and that members would receive from the Secretariat regular briefings on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular as regards its humanitarian aspect.

36. The Security Council's long-standing concern about the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan had intensified during 2001, not least in the light of actions taken by the Taliban authorities to restrict United Nations operations in the country, which actions were regarded as having been responsible for the deaths of a great many Afghan civilians. On 9 October, in informal consultations with the Secretary-General and with representatives of the Department of Political Affairs in attendance, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kenzo Oshima, briefed Council members about the humanitarian, political and military situation. Under-Secretary-General Oshima described his visit to the region the previous week, during which he had urged Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to keep their borders open to allow those in need to get across. The United Nations was maintaining its twin-track approach of providing help to vulnerable people inside Afghanistan, while improving conditions for those who had already become refugees in sorely-pressed neighbouring States. He had co-chaired (with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) the Afghan Forum Meeting in Geneva during the previous weekend, while Deputy Special Representative Vendrell had chaired a meeting of the Geneva Initiative. On the ground, conflict was continuing in the north, the west and the north-east provinces of Afghanistan without any significant changes on the military front. The United Nations effort in Afghanistan had suffered a loss with the deaths that day of four local aid workers, who had apparently been killed as a result of an aerial bombardment. Following these consultations, the President conveyed Council members' views to the press.

37. In further informal consultations of Council members, held on 16 October, the Secretary-General welcomed humanitarian pledges by Member States and called for the prompt release of funds. He indicated that the United Nations would need to remain involved in Afghanistan for a long time and that it would have to be flexible in its approach to matters concerning security. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lakhdar Brahimi, indicated that the United Nations should focus on delivering humanitarian assistance to Afghans in need; helping the Afghan people to solve their political problems; and progressing from relief work to reconstruction, rehabilitation and long-term development. He emphasized that any objectives of the United Nations in relation to security should be achievable and realistic. There was some discussion between Council members about possible ways in which the security situation might be improved. Council members reiterated support for Mr. Brahimi and agreed that the eventual objective in Afghanistan should be the formation of a broad-based and multi-ethnic Government with full respect for international obligations concerning human and minority rights. The solution to the current crisis should come from within Afghanistan, with countries of the region playing an important role. Members expressed concern about the humanitarian situation, which would only be fully resolved as part of a wider political process. They underlined the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers and called on States neighbouring Afghanistan to accommodate refugees and to facilitate the delivery of essential supplies.

Following the consultations, the President transmitted the views of Council members by means of a press statement.

38. Once again in informal consultations, held on 23 October, the Secretary-General expressed concern about obtaining access for humanitarian supplies into Afghanistan and provided information about the visit of Under-Secretary-General Oshima to Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. He stressed the important role that rehabilitation and reconstruction would play in Afghanistan and suggested that "quick impact projects" might be examined. He highlighted the issue of security around Kabul and outlined the structure within the United Nations for dealing with Afghanistan, including the newly established Integrated Mission Task Force (IMTF). The Special Representative, Lakhdar Brahimi, provided some information about his bilateral consultations and referred to efforts within the Secretariat to develop initial thinking as to his overall approach to the situation, both current and prospective. He confirmed that he would depart at the end of that week and spend time in the region, in particular in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. Council members expressed deep concern about the humanitarian situation. There was broad consensus that the United Nations should lead the process towards establishing a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative Government in Afghanistan. Members discussed the various options for security, including a United Nations peacekeeping force, a multinational force or an all-Afghan force. At the end of informal consultations, the President conveyed Council members' views to the press (see appendix).

39. During October, in the context of continuing military operations, a grave humanitarian crisis and deepening political uncertainty, close coordination was maintained between the Security Council and the Secretary-General, as well as his Special Representative, as they intensified their efforts in the run-up to the Bonn Conference of Afghan parties to be held in November.

East Timor

40. A further priority of Ireland's presidency of the Security Council in October was the situation in East Timor, and in particular the framing of an initial response by the Council to the Secretary-General's recommendations concerning the future of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the structure for the successor mission to UNTAET after independence.

41. The report of the Secretary-General was issued on 18 October (S/2001/983 and Corr.1). Having addressed the matter of transition to independence and of the continued down-sizing of UNTAET, the Secretary-General proposed a plan for the post-UNTAET successor mission. The plan foresaw an integrated mission headed by a special representative of the Secretary-General, comprising a military component, a civilian police component and a civilian component, including experts who would provide crucial assistance to the emergent East Timorese administration. The primary focus of the successor mission would be to ensure the security of East Timor and the viability and stability of its government structures, allowing for the completion of the mandate which had been entrusted by the Security Council to UNTAET. The core tasks of the successor mission would be performed by international staff for a period of two years or less after independence, as responsibilities were transferred progressively to the East Timorese authorities.

42. On Thursday, 25 October, the Security Council held a private meeting with UNTAET troop-contributing countries. During the meeting, strong support was expressed for the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General. The view was expressed that adequate and assured funding should be made available for the post-independence mission in order to ensure the stability of the operation. In the light of the requirements of resolution 1353 (2001) regarding cooperation between the Council and troop-contributing countries in general, the President informally made available to Council members a written summary of the views expressed during the meeting of 25 October.

43. In a letter which he addressed to the President of the Security Council on 30 October, the Secretary-General informed the Council that, on 19 October, the Constituent Assembly in East Timor had voted overwhelmingly to recommend 20 May 2002 as the date of independence for East Timor. That date, if approved by the Security Council, would therefore see the end of the Transitional Administration and the transfer of legislative, executive and judicial authority to the constitutionally mandated institutions of East Timor.

44. On 31 October, the Council members discussed East Timor during informal consultations. The Secretary-General, who was in Europe, participated in the discussion by teleconference. The Council, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland presiding, then held a lengthy public meeting (S/PV.4403 and Resumption 1) with the participation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello and the Chief Minister of the second East Timorese Transitional Government, Mari Alkatiri. The Vice-President of the World Bank, Mats Karlsson, and the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Zephirin Diabre, also delivered statements. A total of 17 States not members of the Council participated in the meeting. At a further public meeting on 31 October (S/PV.4404), the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/32).

45. During October 2001, the Security Council thus made clear its overall approach to the situation in East Timor in the perspective of the transition towards independence on 20 May 2002 and the United Nations involvement in East Timor thereafter. In the coming months, the Council will revert to this matter, in the light of further, more detailed proposals from the Secretary-General.

Iraq: report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1360 (2001)

46. In informal consultations on 11 October, the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme briefed the members of the Council on the humanitarian programme in Iraq, in the light of the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1360 (2001) (S/2001/919).

47. From the report of the Secretary-General, the Executive Director, inter alia, cited several difficulties hampering the implementation of the humanitarian programme, which had arisen from action, inaction or tardy action on the part of the Government of Iraq. He pointed to the increasingly high level of holds placed on contracts in the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1999) and to the continued lack of agreement in the Council and the Committee concerning implementation of a "cash component", which had been provided for in resolution 1284 (1999).

48. During their discussion of the matter, the members of the Council expressed support and appreciation for the work of the Office of the Iraq Programme. Several members emphasized their concern at the failures of the Government of Iraq in the implementation of the humanitarian programme, which had been detailed in the report of the Secretary-General. Many delegations placed particular emphasis on the problems created for the humanitarian programme by the increasingly high level of holds. In this connection, it was pointed out that the increase in the total value of contracts on hold was due to the increase in value and complexity of contracts that have been presented under the humanitarian programme and that the absolute number of contracts on hold was actually decreasing, although some members considered the volume of holds to be unacceptably high. Some members stressed the need for a reform of the sanctions regime while others called for a comprehensive approach to the search for a way out of the current impasse.

49. As had been foreseen by all concerned, the Council members' consideration of this item in October represented an interim phase. The Council was scheduled to take action in the following month upon the expiry of the current phase of the humanitarian programme and adopted resolution 1382 (2001) on 29 November.

Situation between Iraq and Kuwait: United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

50. In his report of 26 September (S/2001/913), the Secretary-General recommended that the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) be maintained. On 2 October the Council met in private with the UNIKOM troop-contributing countries. The meeting heard a briefing from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. An official communiqué of the Council (S/PV.4386) was issued.

51. In informal consultations held on 3 October, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the members of the Council on the basis of the Secretary-General's report drawing attention to the Secretary-General's observations that, during the period under review, the situation along the border between Iraq and Kuwait had remained generally quiet; that UNIKOM had continued to carry out its tasks smoothly, thereby contributing to the maintenance of calm and stability in the border

area; and that it had continued to receive the cooperation of the authorities on both sides. The members of the Council concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Observation Mission be maintained, and authorized the President of the Council to convey this view to the Secretary-General in writing, which he did by letter dated 4 October 2001 (S/2001/936). They will review the question again before 6 April 2002.

Situation in the Middle East (including the Question of Palestine)

52. During informal consultations on 23 October, the President of the Security Council drew to the attention of the members of the Council a joint written request from the Permanent Representatives of Mali and of Qatar for "the immediate convening of a meeting of the Security Council in order to take the necessary action to ensure the full and immediate withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Palestinian areas it has reoccupied recently" as well as a separate written request from the Permanent Observer of Palestine containing the same request. The President also reported on a visit that he had received from the Permanent Observer of Palestine, during which the latter had requested that a meeting of the Security Council be convened for the purpose of adopting a resolution on the situation in the Middle East.

53. During their discussion of the matter, the members of the Security Council stressed the importance of maintaining the unity of the Council. Some members recalled the rapidity with which the Council had reacted to the events of 11 September and advocated that the Council also take action on the current situation in the Middle East. Other members expressed caution, saying that the efforts that were being made on the ground to secure an Israeli withdrawal should be allowed a chance to succeed. The President of the Council noted that there was a preponderant view among the members that the Council should speak on the issue and that it should do so with one voice. He undertook to engage in bilateral consultations with the members and to convene informal consultations again in 48 hours, at which stage the members would be in a position to review the situation.

54. At informal consultations held on 25 October, the President of the Council reported on the inclusive contacts that he had undertaken during the intervening two days, including with the Secretary-General. He stated that there was a general view among members that the Council should react to the already very serious situation on the ground. The members of the Council heard a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kiernan Prendergast, on developments in the area, and, in particular, on a statement that had been made earlier in the day in Gaza by the envoys of the European Union, the Russian Federation, the Consul-General of the United States of America and the United Nations Special Coordinator (the so-called "Quartet"). Their statement noted commitments made by President Arafat to control violence and combat terrorism, urged him to make a full and concerted effort to ensure compliance with the ceasefire and called on Israel to withdraw from Area A, halt extrajudicial killings, fully respect the ceasefire, ease the closures and take steps for the immediate implementation of the Mitchell report and the Tenet plan, leading to a resumption of the political process.

55. Following an exchange of views among members, the President of the Council proposed that he be authorized to make a statement to the press which, inter alia, would include an expression of support for the statement of the four envoys and would also support calls made in capitals for immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Area A. This proposal was agreed to by Council members. Some of the members stated that their agreeing to a press statement by the Council President should not be regarded as a substitute for formal Security Council action, to which subject they would return at a later stage. The 25 October statement of the Council President to the press and the accompanying statement of the "Quartet" are reproduced below (see appendix).

56. In further informal consultations on 29 October, the President of the Council drew attention to a letter of 26 October addressed to him by the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on behalf of the Group of Arab States and by the members of the League of Arab States. The letter recalled the earlier request that the Security Council meet and take action that would ensure Israel's immediate withdrawal from Palestinian-controlled territories. The Under-Secretary-General again briefed the members of the Council on the situation on the ground and, in particular, on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Bethlehem and Beit Jala.

57. In informal consultations on 30 October, the President of the Council reported on the extensive consultations that he had conducted over the previous 24 hours, and, in particular, on a meeting with the Chargé d'affaires of Bangladesh in the latter's capacity as coordinator of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The coordinator had proposed elements for a short and focused resolution. On the basis of his bilateral consultations, and following a discussion among the members during which most expressed support for formal Security Council action and also stressed the importance of unity, the President of the Council concluded that, while no form of action was excluded, a presidential statement at that point in time offered the best opportunity of meeting the concerns expressed by members, while maintaining the unity of the Council.

58. In informal consultations on 31 October, the President of the Council told the members that he would be available in the course of the day to delegations that might wish to offer views on the form and content of any formal action by the Security Council concerning the Middle East. Subsequently, the views expressed to him bilaterally by some delegations led the President to conclude that it was not possible for the moment to achieve agreement on the form that such action might take and he contacted members to inform them accordingly.

Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

59. On 22 October 2001, the Secretary-General forwarded to the President of the Security Council, for the Council's attention, a letter dated 14 September 2001 (S/2001/988), addressed to him by the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea, requesting assistance from the United Nations for the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, especially in the area of weapons collection and disposal. The Secretary-General indicated that he intended, with the concurrence of the Council, to respond positively to the request from the Government of Papua New Guinea, which, he added, was supported by the Bougainville parties. The Secretary-General listed the functions that would be performed by the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, as spelled out in the Agreement, as well as certain organizational and financial implications.

60. On 31 October (S/2001/1028), the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that the matter had been brought to the attention of the members of the Council and that they welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to respond positively to the request of the Government of Papua New Guinea which was also supported by the Bougainville parties; and took note of the financial implications of the expanded functions of the Political Office in Bougainville.

Europe

Georgia (Abkhazia)

61. In informal consultations held on 8 October, Council members heard a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, concerning the shooting down that morning of a helicopter of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) close to the Kodori Valley in Abkhazia. It was confirmed that all nine persons on board had been killed. In discussion, there were condemnations of the shooting, expressions of sympathy for the families of those killed and calls for a speedy investigation into the incident. Following the consultations, the President conveyed the views of Council members to the press.

62. In further informal consultations held on 12 October, the Secretariat briefed Council members on developments regarding the helicopter incident. The remains of all nine victims had been recovered and the United Nations had begun an investigation. Fighting had increased in the lower Kodori Valley and in the Gali district. UNOMIG had restricted movement in the region and had drawn up preliminary relocation plans for its staff in the event that they might be necessary. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Dieter Boden, was maintaining contact with both sides to the conflict and had stressed the need for political progress. He had made clear to the Georgian authorities that the activities of UNOMIG were dependent on the presence of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peacekeeping forces. Council members discussed a proposal for a Security Council mission to visit the region. Some delegations supported the proposal while one delegation suggested the Council should await progress on the political status issue. Another delegation asserted that the criminal activities of illegal armed groups were responsible for tensions in the region, including for the shooting down of the United Nations helicopter. The same delegation stated that the

presence of its soldiers in the zone of conflict had been mandated by a CIS agreement, with the consent of both parties, and characterized the role that they played there.

63. In informal consultations held on 29 October, the Secretariat provided a briefing on the investigation into the helicopter incident. An investigation team had been established on 14 October, under Ukrainian leadership, in line with standard procedure as the helicopter had been registered in Ukraine. The preliminary evidence suggested that the crash had been caused by the impact of a surface-to-air missile fired from a portable launcher, probably by an armed infiltrator. The investigation was ongoing. The Secretariat also briefed members on developments in the security situation subsequent to the issue of the report of the Secretary-General of 24 October (S/2001/1008).

64. The Security Council held a private meeting on 30 October with the participation of the Special Representative, Dieter Boden. An official communiqué was issued afterwards (S/PV.4400).

Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

65. The last of the Security Council's regular public meetings (briefings) on Kosovo prior to the 17 November all-Kosovo elections took place on 5 October (S/PV.4387), with the participation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Hans Haekkerup, and three States non-members of the Council. The Council had been monitoring the situation closely over preceding months and it was considered important that it send a clear signal in October, as the preparations for the elections intensified.

66. At a further meeting of the Security Council on 5 October (S/PV.4388), the President read out a Presidential statement on the situation in Kosovo (S/PRST/2001/27), which, inter alia, reaffirmed the Council's commitment to full implementation of resolution 1244 (1999).

Other issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

67. As indicated in paragraph 34 above, on 7 October, two members of the Security Council informed the President that their forces had that day initiated military actions in Afghanistan in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter. Following intensive contacts between the President of the Council, the Secretary-General and the members concerned, informal consultations of the whole were convened on 8 October. At these consultations, with the Secretary-General in attendance, the two members concerned provided details of the actions which their Governments had initiated. Following an exchange of views, the President was authorized to make a statement to the press on behalf of the members of the Council.

68. In informal consultations, held on 4 October, pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, and after the President of the Council had undertaken intensive contacts within the Council, the members agreed to elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee established by paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001): as Chairman, Sir Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); and as Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Alfonso Valdivieso (Colombia), Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul (Mauritius) and Ambassador Sergey Lavrov (Russian Federation). Members of the Council also agreed to undertake a review of the structure and activities of the Committee not later than 4 April 2002. A note by the President (S/2001/935) recording the points agreed upon by Council members was issued on the same day.

69. The Committee commenced its work later on 4 October, and met on a total of seven occasions during the month. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1373 (2001), the Committee was required to submit a programme of work to the Council by 28 October 2001, and to consider the support it required, in consultation with the Secretary-General. On 19 October, the Chairman of the Committee duly forwarded the Committee's programme of work to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/986). On 23 October, following informal consultations of the whole, the President of the Council informed the Chairman of the Committee that the members of the Council agreed to the programme of work, as submitted (S/2001/999).

International Court of Justice

70. On 12 October, the Security Council held a public meeting (S/PV.4389) for the purpose of conducting an election to fill the vacancy on the Court arising out of the resignation of Judge Mohammed Bedjaoui of Algeria. Mr. Nabil Elaraby of Egypt secured the

required absolute majority of the votes in the Security Council. Having also obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast in the General Assembly, Mr. Elaraby was duly elected to serve as a Judge of the International Court of Justice for the remainder of the term of Judge Bedjaoui.

71. On 29 October, the Security Council held a private meeting at which the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Gilbert Guillaume, briefed the Security Council on recent case law of the International Court of Justice of relevance to the work of the Security Council. The Security Council expressed its appreciation for this briefing by Judge Guillaume. An official communiqué was issued afterwards (S/PV.4398). One member suggested that, in view of the important points raised by Judge Guillaume's briefing, future such meetings should facilitate an interactive discussion with the President of the Court.

Women and peace and security

72. On 30 October, members of the Council met under the Arria formula to discuss the cross-cutting issue of women, peace and security. They had been convened by the Permanent Mission of Jamaica. In addition to the members of the Security Council, the participants included: Natércia Godinho-Adams from East Timor; Elisabeth Rehn, Independent Expert on the impact of armed conflict on women and women's role in peace-building; Haxhere Veseli, from Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Maha E. Muna, Non-governmental Organizations Working Group on Women and International Peace and Security; and Ms. Jamila, from Afghanistan. On 31 October, following agreement in informal consultations of the whole, the Security Council met in public (S/PV.4402) and, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland presiding, adopted a presidential statement on women, peace and security (S/PRST/2001/31).

General issues relating to sanctions

73. On 22 October, the Security Council held a public meeting, which resumed and was concluded on 25 October (S/PV.4394 and Resumption 1 and Corr.1). The Council was briefed by the Representatives of Germany and Switzerland regarding the outcome, respectively, of the Berlin/Bonn and Interlaken processes on targeted sanctions and by the representative of Sweden regarding that country's intention to organize, in early 2002, the Stockholm process, which will examine certain other aspects of targeted sanctions. During the discussion, members of the Council noted their appreciation and support for the work of the Berlin/Bonn and Interlaken processes and welcomed the planned Stockholm process. Several members of the Council also expressed the hope that it might soon be possible to finalize the recommendations of the Working Group of the Security Council on the general issue of sanctions. In regard to the latter issue, despite a considerable effort deployed by the President of the Council, it did not prove possible during October to obtain consensus agreement among Council members.

Nobel Peace Prize

74. The Security Council held a public meeting on 12 October (S/PV.4390) and, with the participation of the Secretary-General, adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/28) welcoming the award, that day, of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2001 to the United Nations and to the Secretary-General.

Meetings of the Security Council with troop-contributing countries

75. There were three such meetings during October, concerning UNIKOM, MONUC and UNTAET. Ireland's presidency continued the practice initiated during the French presidency in September, by using the format of private meetings of the Security Council, pursuant to annex II of resolution 1353 (2001). Following the meeting with the troop-contributing countries to MONUC, Ireland initiated the first implementation of paragraph 6 of section B of annex II of resolution 1353 (2001) which states:

> "The following arrangements will be made to ensure timely and appropriate communication of the concerns and views of troop-contributing countries, as expressed at the consultation meetings, to the members of the Security Council so that these concerns and views can receive due consideration:
>
> - The President of the Security Council will prepare, with the assistance of the Secretariat, and make available a summary of the contents of such meetings;
>
> - The summary of discussion will be distributed to Council members in advance

of informal consultations or of the next meeting on the relevant peacekeeping operation, where appropriate."

76. Ireland complied with the latter, also following the meeting with the troop-contributing countries to UNTAET by distributing a timely summary of the concerns and views of troop-contributing countries to the members of the Council.

Informal Working Group of the Security Council on Documentation and Procedures

77. The Working Group met on 3 October and again, informally, on 29 October, to take up, in the light of prior discussions in informal consultations of the whole, the matter of how to proceed with the review of the format and content of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. This matter is receiving continuing attention in the Working Group.

Informal Working Group concerning the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda

78. The Working Group met on 16 October and received a briefing from the Vice-President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Erik Møse, on the proposal to establish a pool of ad litem judges for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Members of the Working Group also offered some preliminary views on this proposal.

Appendix

Statements to the press by the President of the Security Council

Eritrea and Ethiopia
3 October 2001

Members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, regarding the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia and note with concern that the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is experiencing increasing difficulties in its operations in the Temporary Security Zone and in adjacent areas north of the zone.

Members of the Security Council call on the parties to further engage in constructive dialogue within the framework of the Military Coordination Commission to facilitate UNMEE's work, including through any further consideration by the Government of Eritrea regarding the possibility of establishing sectoral Military Coordination Commissions.

Members of the Security Council note with concern that the parties have not yet resolved the issue of the air corridor between Addis Ababa and Asmara and call on the parties to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency.

Members of the Security Council express their determination to monitor closely political developments in the region with the view to assessing possible impacts on the peace process and will remain actively seized of the matter.

Sierra Leone
3 October 2001

The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations briefed members of the Security Council on the current situation regarding the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the progress being made with the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme is progressing reasonably well, but concern was expressed this morning about the slow progress of the disarmament of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Bombali district.

Concerns raised by RUF are being addressed. These concerns are, however, no excuse for the delay by RUF of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. RUF has the opportunity to air such concerns in the tripartite forum meetings with UNAMSIL and the Government of Sierra Leone. The next such meeting is scheduled for 11 October.

The members of the Council continue to urge RUF and the Civil Defence Force to participate fully in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. This is essential for the long-term stability of Sierra Leone. The members also urge donors to contribute to the Multi-donor Trust Fund for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The recently announced contributions of Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands were noted with appreciation.

Afghanistan
4 October 2001

Council members warmly welcomed the decision by the Secretary-General to appoint Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as his Special Representative to Afghanistan. Mr. Brahimi will oversee the humanitarian and political efforts of the United Nations and work to develop plans for the rehabilitation of Afghanistan. His appointment should provide a powerful injection to United Nations efforts to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan.

Council members wish Mr. Brahimi very good fortune in his new position as Special Representative. Members look forward to meeting with him at the earliest possible opportunity.

8 October 2001

The members of the Security Council met this evening at the request of the Representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland so that they could inform the members regarding the action that has been initiated by their armed forces in Afghanistan, with the contribution and support of other United Nations Member States. The Secretary-General was present at the meeting. The members of the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's public statement of today.

I might recall that the Security Council reacted to the attacks of 11 September first through resolution

1368 (2001) and then through resolution 1373 (2001), which took direct aim at the financing and support of international terrorism. The members of the Council are determined to see the full implementation of these resolutions.

The members of the Security Council took note of the letters that the Representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom sent yesterday to the President of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, in which they state that the action had been taken in accordance with the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence following the terrorist attacks in the United States of 11 September 2001.

The Permanent Representatives made it clear that the military action that commenced on 7 October was taken in self-defence and directed at terrorists and those who harboured them. They stressed that every effort was being made to avoid civilian casualties and that the action was in no way a strike against the people of Afghanistan, Islam or the Moslem world.

The members of the Council were appreciative of the presentations made by the United States and the United Kingdom.

The members of the Security Council are deeply concerned at the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. They expressed appreciation for the humanitarian assistance being offered by many countries. They expressed their support for the Secretary-General's continued efforts and welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi as his Special Representative for Afghanistan. Ambassador Brahimi will address the political, humanitarian and, in due course, the rehabilitation aspects of the situation.

The members of the Council are already scheduled to meet tomorrow morning to hold a further discussion on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan following a briefing from the Secretariat, with particular reference to the situation regarding refugees.

9 October 2001

The members of the Security Council received this morning a full briefing on the humanitarian situation in and around Afghanistan, from Under-Secretary-General Kenzo Oshima. They welcomed the participation of the Secretary-General in the discussion. Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Danilo Türk, also participated.

Members of the Council expressed grave concern about the humanitarian situation. They welcomed contributions of Member States in responding to the United Nations emergency fund and urged States to make further contributions as a matter of urgency.

Council members commended the work of humanitarian staff in Afghanistan. They noted and joined in the expressions of great regret by the United States and the United Kingdom at the deaths of four Afghan personnel working for non-governmental organizations on United Nations landmine programmes. They reiterated the importance they attach to ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel at all times. They also expressed concern about the deliberate attacks on United Nations offices in Quetta, Pakistan.

Council members stressed the need for all States to cooperate with United Nations agencies and to help create the conditions for humanitarian agencies to operate effectively. They expressed concern about the plight of vulnerable women and children, especially before the onset of winter.

Council members remain deeply concerned about the plight of refugees. They welcomed the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and other States in the region in working with the United Nations in responding to this crisis, and called on neighbouring States to enable essential cross-border deliveries. They stressed the need for the international community to respond to the needs of host countries.

Council members called on the Taliban to desist immediately from threatening the safety and security of aid workers and to cease immediately the obstruction of aid destined for the Afghan people.

Council members reiterated their support for the appointment of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as Special Representative to Afghanistan. Mr. Brahimi will address the political, humanitarian and, in due course, the rehabilitation aspects of the situation.

Council members reiterated their intention to remain fully briefed on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

16 October 2001

The members of the Security Council met today with the Secretary-General, his Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, Deputy Special Representative Francesc Vendrell, Under-Secretary-General Kieran Prendergast and Kevin Kennedy of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

There was an exchange of views on the humanitarian, political and military situation in Afghanistan and a preliminary discussion about the future possible role of the United Nations. Council members strongly reiterated their support for the appointment of Mr. Brahimi, who will oversee United Nations political, humanitarian and, in due course, rehabilitation aspects of the situation. Council members intend to meet with Mr. Brahimi again soon to discuss further the overall situation, together with Mr. Vendrell.

Council members expressed grave concern about the humanitarian situation. They urged States to disburse rapidly their contributions to the United Nations emergency humanitarian appeals for Afghanistan. Members commended the efforts of humanitarian workers in the region and reiterated the importance of ensuring the safety and security of such workers at all times. They stressed the need for all States to cooperate with United Nations agencies and to help create the conditions for humanitarian agencies to operate effectively.

Council members urged neighbouring States to intensify their cooperation in working with the United Nations to respond to the refugee crisis. They stressed the need for the international community to respond financially to the needs of host countries.

Council members demanded that the Taliban should stop threatening the safety and security of aid workers, and cease obstructing aid destined for the Afghan people. They also called on the Taliban to contribute to the alleviation of hardship by the very large part of the Afghan population, comprising women, girls and children.

Council members reiterated their intention to remain fully briefed on the situation in Afghanistan, including the humanitarian situation.

23 October 2001

The members of the Security Council met today with the Secretary-General, his Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, Deputy Special Representative Francesc Vendrell and Kevin Kennedy of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs as part of an ongoing series of meetings in relation to Afghanistan.

Mr. Brahimi provided an update on his activities since last week's briefing on Afghanistan. There was an exchange of views on the humanitarian, political and military situation in and around Afghanistan and a discussion about the future possible role of the United Nations. Council members reiterated their full support for the work of Mr. Brahimi and encouraged him to continue his consultations.

Council members expressed concern about the humanitarian situation and stressed the importance of ensuring that emergency supplies are delivered to Afghans in need as quickly as possible. They called on States to disburse rapidly their contributions to the United Nations emergency humanitarian appeals for Afghanistan.

Council members commended the work of humanitarian workers in the region and reiterated the importance of ensuring their safety and security at all times.

Council members urged neighbouring States to intensify their cooperation in working with the United Nations to respond to the refugee crisis. They highlighted the need for the international community to respond financially to the needs of host countries.

Council members demanded that the Taliban stop preventing aid from reaching the Afghan people and stop threatening the safety and security of aid workers.

Council members reiterated their intention to remain fully briefed on the situation in Afghanistan, including the humanitarian situation.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

4 October 2001

Following intensive bilateral consultations that I undertook with the members of the Security Council in recent days, I was in a position to convene the Council

members to meet this morning in informal consultations.

I am pleased to inform you that the members of the Security Council, meeting in these informal consultations, agreed to elect Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to the position of Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001.

In addition, the following were elected to the position of Vice-Chairman: Alfonso Valdivieso, Permanent Representative of Colombia; Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius; Sergey Lavrov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation.

In this connection, a note by the President of the Security Council is being issued today as an official document of the Council.

Georgia
8 October 2001

The members of the Security Council strongly condemned the attack against a helicopter of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in Abkhazia (Georgia) on Monday, 8 October, which resulted in the death of four observers, two local staff and three crew members. They offered their condolences to the families of the victims.

Members of the Council stressed that a speedy investigation of the responsibilities involved in the attack is needed. The perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Members of the Council also underlined the importance of keeping security arrangements of UNOMIG under constant review in order to ensure the highest possible level of security for the personnel of the Mission.

Members of the Council recalled that it is the primary responsibility of both sides to provide appropriate security conditions for the work of the Mission at all times, pursuant to Security Council resolutions and their mutual obligations, the latest undertaken at Yalta.

Burundi
10 October 2001

Members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kiernan Prendergast, regarding the situation in Burundi.

Members of the Security Council condemn the continuing violence and express deep concern at the appalling humanitarian situation in Burundi.

Members of the Council reiterate their call to the international community to increase humanitarian, development and economic assistance to support the people of Burundi and the transitional government and to alleviate the plight of the large number of internally displaced persons. All parties are called upon to respect human rights and humanitarian law and to facilitate access for humanitarian assistance.

Members of the Council note the importance of the current phase in the peace process in Burundi and call on all parties to seize this opportunity and to work together in a spirit of compromise to resolve outstanding difficulties and to advance the peace process.

Members of the Security Council reiterate their strong support for the installation of the transitional government in Burundi on 1 November. They call on all the signatories of the Arusha Agreement to cooperate fully with the Facilitation and the Implementation Monitoring Committee and to uphold in full the commitment which they have entered into so that the necessary legal and political environment will be established to facilitate the return of the exiled political leaders. They call on the Burundian parties to reach agreement, as a matter of priority, on the outstanding issues, including the establishment of a special protection unit specifically aimed at providing protection for returning political leaders. In this regard, members of the Council encourage such States as may be in a position to offer assistance to do so.

Members of the Security Council reiterate their strong support for the facilitation of former President Nelson Mandela and for the Implementation Monitoring Committee.

Members of the Security Council reiterate their call on all concerned States to cease all forms of support to the Forces nationales de libération (FNL) and Front pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD) and

urge all Member States, in particular the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe and the United Republic of Tanzania to encourage the armed groups to join the peace process.

Members of the Security Council call on armed groups immediately to suspend hostilities and to enter into negotiations for a ceasefire.

Members of the Security Council reiterate their willingness to consider, in the light of progress in the above areas, further contributions to the peace process and the implementation of the Arusha Agreement.

16 October 2001

The members of the Security Council heard an update briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kiernan Prendergast, regarding the situation in Burundi.

Members of the Security Council reiterated their strong support for the Facilitator, former President Nelson Mandela.

Members of the Security Council welcomed the progress made at the summit of the Regional Peace Initiative in Johannesburg on 11 October.

Members of the Security Council called on all the Burundian parties to avail themselves of this unique opportunity and to implement the peace process in an inclusive manner.

Members of the Security Council also called on the Burundian parties to resolve the outstanding issues without delay so that the installation of the transitional government can proceed on 1 November.

Members of the Security Council stated their intention to continue to follow developments very closely.

Democratic Republic of the Congo
11 October 2001

The members of the Security Council welcomed the opening of the inter-Congolese dialogue on 15 October and reaffirmed their full support for the Facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, and the facilitation team. They called on all Congolese parties, with the participation of representatives of civil society, to make every effort to ensure the success of the dialogue in a spirit of consensus.

Members of the Security Council welcomed the progress that has been achieved in the dialogue to date and recalled that the most important stage of the dialogue lies ahead. In this regard, members of the Security Council encouraged the participants to maintain the "spirit of Gaborone".

Members of the Security Council encouraged donors to continue to support the Facilitator and to expedite the disbursement of funding.

Members of the Council are seriously concerned at the increase in hostilities in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At this time, when the peace process is entering a new phase with the beginning of the inter-Congolese dialogue, members of the Council called on all the parties to the conflict to exercise restraint in the military field. In this regard, they called on all countries in the region, in particular the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to cease any form of support to the armed groups in the eastern part of the country.

Members of the Council once again urged Rwanda and all other foreign forces to begin without delay their withdrawal from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with the Lusaka ceasefire agreement and Security Council resolutions, especially with regard to the situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They called on all foreign forces not to reinforce their military contingents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They called on the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) to demilitarize Kisangani, as demanded in Security Council resolutions. In this regard, they called on the Government of Rwanda to exert its leading influence on RCD to bring about the demilitarization of Kisangani.

Members of the Council are also seriously concerned about the worsening of the humanitarian and human rights situation, in particular in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Members of the Council are concerned at the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They expressed their support for the work of the expert panel tasked by the Secretary-General with examining this issue, and underlined the importance they place on the findings of the final report, which is due shortly to be submitted to the Council.

Members of the Council call on the Lusaka signatories, in particular the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, to reach agreement on a political framework for the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement process so that this can move forward, without delay, on a voluntary basis. They are encouraged by the decision of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to start the process with those cantoned in Kamina and encouraged them actively to take forward this process in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), including through further visits to Kamina by MONUC assessment teams. MONUC must have access to Kamina.

Members of the Council await with interest the next report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the role of MONUC. They recall their readiness to make the necessary efforts in support for the peace process, but note that, in the first place, it is for the parties themselves to put the necessary conditions in place, in particular respect for the provisions of the Lusaka ceasefire agreement and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

Members of the Council reaffirmed their strong support for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement of armed groups and the inter-Congolese dialogue.

Angola
17 October 2001

The members of the Security Council received an extensive briefing from Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari on the work of the United Nations Office in Angola. They concurred with the Secretary-General's recommendation that the mandate of the Office be extended for a further six months.

Members of the Security Council remain deeply concerned at the continuing conflict in Angola. They reiterated their position that the primary responsibility for the continued fighting lies with UNITA and called on UNITA to end its military action. They also called on UNITA to enter into dialogue with the Government of Angola on how to conclude the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

Members of the Security Council expressed deep concern about the humanitarian situation. They called for access to the at-risk population to be granted to humanitarian workers. They welcomed the initiatives by the Government and the Angolan people, together with the very important role of civil society and the churches to promote the peace process.

Members of the Security Council also welcomed Mr. Gambari's announcement that he would visit Angola in November at the request of the Government of Angola for consultations with the Government, political parties and civil society representatives on how best the United Nations can help in the search for a negotiated peace in the country.

Members of the Security Council called on the United Nations Office in Angola to prepare measurable objectives for the period ahead.

Members of the Security Council were told by the incoming presidency of the Security Council, Jamaica, that it intended to schedule an open meeting on Angola during November.

Guinea-Bissau
22 October 2001

The members of the Security Council expressed their concern at recent developments in Guinea-Bissau and, in response to international appeals including by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, called on all institutions of government to engage in dialogue, to respect the constitution and to promote national reconciliation in order to find a way out of the current difficulties.

The members of the Council welcomed the efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to address the economic and social problems of the country. Members took note of the recent memorandum from the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

The members of the Council encouraged the further implementation of the programme of demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration.

The members of the Council called for an integrated and coordinated approach by the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system — including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as bilateral donors, to help Guinea-Bissau create income-generating capacity. The need for technical and

financial assistance for the judiciary was also acknowledged.

The members of the Council also acknowledged the need for strengthened dialogue with United Nations funds, programmes and agencies operating in and around Guinea-Bissau, to enhance coordination. The members look forward to an assessment of this coordination in the next report of the Secretary-General.

The members of the Council recognized the continuing important role played by the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS).

Middle East
25 October 2001

Members of the Security Council met today to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

Members were deeply concerned by the escalation in violence and deplored the loss of life on both sides.

Members supported statements from capitals calling for immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Area A.

Members fully supported the important diplomatic initiatives to de-escalate the situation on the ground.

Members strongly supported all the elements contained in the statement issued by representatives in the region of the European Union, the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the Special Coordinator of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Members welcomed the resumption tomorrow of tripartite security meetings.

Members agreed that the Security Council should speak with one voice on this matter.

It was agreed to keep the situation under close review in the light of further developments, and to revert to it once again in the coming days.

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Statement

We (Special Envoy of the European Union, Miguel Moratinos, United States Consul-General, Ron Schlicher, Russian Special Envoy, Andrey Vdovin, and United Nations Special Coordinator, Terje Roed-Larsen) met with Chairman Arafat, together with the diplomatic corps, to review the current, dangerous situation.

We discussed the importance of both sides fully complying with the ceasefire announced on 26 September 2001.

We acknowledged that prior to 17 October 2001 the Palestinian Authority had begun to take steps to ensure the strict implementation of the ceasefire. These steps had been undermined by the assassination of Israeli Cabinet Minister Rehavam Zeevi, an act for which the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine took credit, and after which they threatened further actions, and for which they must be held accountable.

We note Chairman Arafat's statement to the diplomatic corps in which he detailed the steps he has taken to control violence and combat terrorism, even under extremely difficult circumstances, including the high loss of civilian life in the multiple incursions into Area A. We welcomed the commitment made by Chairman Arafat to take additional specific and concrete steps to control violence and to ensure full implementation of the Palestinian Authority's ceasefire orders. We urged him to make a concerted effort to ensure full and strict compliance with the Palestinian Authority's ceasefire orders, including through arresting those who defy his orders and taking further steps against terrorist organizations. We stressed that the international community recognizes the Palestinian Authority as the only entity responsible for security in the Palestinian Territory.

We told Chairman Arafat of our determination to continue working closely with him to ensure that the ceasefire was fully respected as we would do with the Government of Israel.

We have called on Israel to: (1) immediately withdraw from Area A; (2) halt extrajudicial killings; (3) ensure greater restraint by the Israel Defence Forces; (4) fully respect the ceasefire; (5) move swiftly to ease the closures, according to the Peres-Arafat understanding of 26 September; (6) to take steps for the immediate implementation of the Mitchell report and Tenet plan, which will lead to a resumption of the political process in order to address the fundamental issues between the two parties.

We stressed the importance of bringing a rapid
We stressed the im[illegible]so that hor[illegible]ould be restored
end to the current crisis so tha[illegible] could be [illegible]
to the Palestinian and Israeli peo[illegible]

We stressed that the intational community stood ready to undertake vigoroufforts to restore the Palestinian economy following devastating losses caused by the crisis and the closu[illegible]